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Focus on the *future*



Anthony L. Holloman

I want to make an impassioned plea for you to make a commitment to our University. We must take ownership of our beloved institution. That's why I write this request to thank you for all that you have done for us in the past and in hopes that you will give to South Carolina State University this year.

It is impossible to write a request for financial support without alluding to the difficulties we've faced in 2010. We are trying to do more with less and to come up with new ways to generate financial support. America is feeling the sting of unemployment levels not seen since the Great Depression, and a staggering economy. I know that you understand our situation and hope that you will be able to answer our call.

We have had to increase our tuition by five percent to help offset the decrease in state appropriations, but that alone will not close the gap. As we implement this tuition increase, we are aware of the impact on our students and their families as approximately 90 percent of our students receive some form of financial aid. That's why we have to increase our fundraising efforts and have set an ambitious goal of \$3 million for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This goal is attainable and we need your support!

Your gift helps to sustain the mission of SC State University to pro-

Sincerely,

Anthony L. Holloman  
Vice President, Institutional Advancement  
Executive Director, SCSU Foundation

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Dr. George E. Cooper

## President's Message

Good Morning!

I am honored to join you at the beginning of the 2011 spring semester and welcome you all back from an extended vacation period, one that you all deserve after completing another successful semester. I would like to acknowledge your dedicated support and the efforts you continue to make in support of SC State University. Without your collective efforts, we would not have met the challenges that we faced. In other words, your individual and collective efforts have allowed us to focus on mission priorities which include providing meaningful educational experiences for our students, engaging in scholarly relevant research, and extending support of our extension and outreach efforts which address the needs of citizens of our community and service areas across the state.

As we continue excellence made possible through our collective efforts, I want to acknowledge a significant accomplishment made as a consequence of collaboration and teamwork by members of the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty and Staff. I am speaking of the December 7, 2010 reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)/Commission on Colleges. This reaffirmation is for an additional 10 years and certifies that we have fully met the standards set for regional accreditation through our administrative organization, curriculum, and the management of our budget and physical resources. While we have been reaffirmed, we still have much work to do in responding to the accountability measures stated in our plan and implementation of our Quality Enhancement Program. We have accomplished this while confronting difficult challenges. This demonstrates that when we work together, all things are possible for SC State University. Let us all stand and give ourselves a round of applause!

We now must prepare for the fifth year report which will be due to SACS in 2015. The report will demonstrate that we are on course in implementation of our plan and related goals.

Working together will be even more important for us as we work through continued short-falls in state resources. We will soon be led by a new Governor, Nikki Haley. The governor, like us, will have to work with a State Legislature who will determine how to stretch shrinking revenues to meet priorities for state agencies, including higher education. Information from our lobbyist suggests that SC State and other State Colleges should be bracing for another big cut in State support, which could be up to 15 percent. For SC State University, this could mean a loss of an additional \$2.0 million in FY 2011-2012. We have heard that there will be an estimated \$800 million shortfall in our State's expected revenues and costs to maintain services. We also know that the three years of Federal stimulus funding will end, and the State will be unable to fill any gaps with Federal stimulus aid in its next budget. SC State received approximately \$3.2 million in FY 2009-2010 which was included in the total received in educational and general (E&G) support. If the Legislature and governor fail to sustain this level of support, we could lose an additional \$3.2 million in unrealized Federal stimulus funds. Combined, and despite stimulus aid, SC colleges lost \$110 million in State support last year. To put our loss of state appropriations in perspective, SC State received \$30 million in FY 2007-2008 and \$13 million in FY 2009-2010 in State E&G appropriations.

In the January 2, 2011 issue of the "Chronicle of Higher Education," Eric Kelderman in his article on "Colleges to Confront Deep Cutbacks" writes: "Those enormous budget gaps, and the likely battles over where to slice spending without tax increases, put public colleges in those states at the greatest risk of steep cuts in financial support during the legislative sessions that will begin this month in many states. The forecast may be even bleaker in some states, like South Carolina. The State's new Governor, Nikki R. Haley, a Republican backed by the Tea Party, has sworn off tax increases as a way to fill the state's \$877-million revenue shortfall, which nearly equals the amount it spent on higher education in 2010.

For the full General Assembly Address, delivered on Jan. 4, 2011, visit the SC State website: [www.scsu.edu](http://www.scsu.edu).

## SC State University Celebrates 115th Anniversary During Founders' Day Weekend

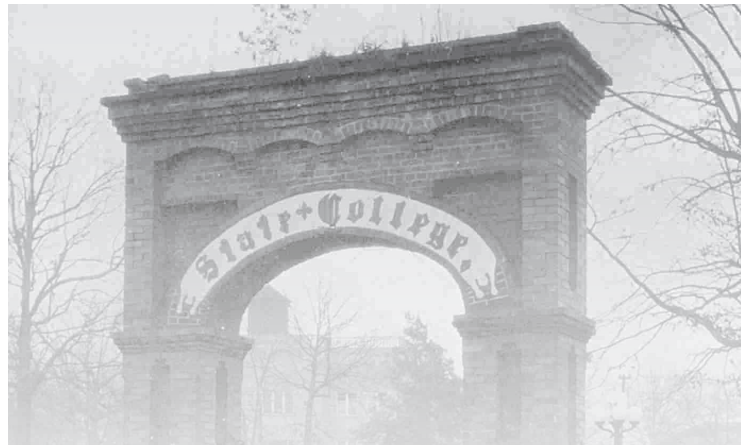
by Tameka Kenan

SC State University faculty, staff, students, alumni, members of the Orangeburg community and of the state of South Carolina will soon converge at SC State University's Smith-Hammond-Middleton (SHM) Memorial Center to celebrate the legacy of an institution that has provided countless years of tutelage and support for many individuals. SC State University's celebration of the 115th anniversary of its founding will take place on Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 4 p.m. in SHM.

Touting the theme, SC State: An Eternal Torch of Light and Hope, the University will recognize those individuals who have offered assistance to the institution and to generations of students during Founders' Day. Ten, 20 and 30-year faculty and staff members will receive service awards, with special recognition for the 2011 inductees into the Quarter Century Club in which members are recognized for 25 plus years of service to SC State University. Members inducted into the Thomas E. Miller Society are also deemed influential, having contributed at least \$100,000 over the course of a lifetime.

Other awards to be presented during this year's Founders' Day include the Distinguished Alumni Award to be presented to the class of 1960. Jim Roquemore will receive the Distinguished Service Award, while the Distinguished Alumna Award will be obtained by Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, '76. Keynote speaker, Dr. M. Christopher Brown II, '93 will be bestowed with the Outstanding Accomplishments and Achievements Award.

Brown, recently appointed to the position of president at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Miss., is ecstatic about keynoting the 2011 Founders' Day. The Charleston, S.C. native credits SC State University for his successful career. "It was SC State that really gave me an understanding of what was possible in life," says Brown. "I will tell anybody that my best training in higher education and leadership management, I received from SC State, and I am still using today what I learned there." (See Brown's full story on pg. 2).



The 115th Founders' Day Weekend Celebration will begin on Saturday, February 26, 2011. The activities are as follows:

### The 2011 South Carolina State University Foundation Scholarship Gala and Tribute

Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center  
Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 7 p.m.

### The Thomas E. Miller Society Breakfast

Robert S. Evans Walnut Room  
Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 9 a.m. (Invitation only)

### Quarter Century Club Luncheon

K.W. Green Student Center (Bulldog Lounge)  
Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 1 p.m. (Invitation only)

### Founders' Day Convocation

Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center  
Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 4 p.m.

For more information on the 2011 Founders' Day Weekend activities, call (803) 536-7057 or (803) 536-8460.

## SC State University Presents the "Best and Brightest" During 2011 Foundation Scholarship Gala and Tribute

by Tameka Kenan

SC State University will host the 2011 Foundation Scholarship Gala and Tribute on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Smith-Hammond-Middleton (SHM) Memorial Center, located on the SC State University campus.

The Scholarship Gala and Tribute is a South Carolina State University Foundation event and an annual opportunity to honor students who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating an uncompromising commitment to the tenets of service, integrity and excellence. As the Foundation's major fundraising event of the year, Gala proceeds are donated to the University to provide scholarship assistance to deserving students.

Due to the continuous support from corporate sponsors, friends and alumni, SC State University will celebrate the academic achievements of three deserving students, deemed as the best and the brightest students at SC State University.

These recipients are thrilled about this prestigious award, and according to Anthony Holloman, vice president for Institutional Advancement and executive director of the South Carolina State University Foundation, alumni and the community should be thrilled as well. "I am happy to be involved with this year's Scholarship Gala and Tribute. I think that this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the students here at SC State University who are excelling and who are preparing to compete within our global society," says Holloman. "I also believe that this is an excellent chance for alumni and potential sponsors to demonstrate their support for these students and for SC State University, an institution committed to the tenets of academic excellence and students first."

For more information on this year's Scholarship Gala and Tribute, call (803) 536-8143.

### Highlights from the 2010 Foundation Scholarship Gala and Tribute



## SC State University's \$3 Million Goal

by Tameka Kenan

SC State University's Division of Institutional Advancement has announced their goal of raising \$3 million for the Institution. With the University's stringent budget cuts for the last two fiscal years, Anthony Holloman, vice-president for Institutional Advancement, has elicited the assistance of alumni and the Orangeburg community to continue supporting the University and its talented students.

Although a rigorous goal, accomplishing this feat may be possible through the implementation of several initiatives, including the recently announced mobile giving campaign, a phonathon, annual fund mailings and major gift fundraising, which consists of individuals who are considering a gift of \$10,000 or more to the University. The Division is also working with various corporations and foundations to commit to multi-year giving to our institution.

The mobile giving campaign was launched in September and has already garnered the support of alumni and patrons. To offer your support, text Bulldog to 52000 and a donation of \$10 will go towards SC State University's \$3 million goal.

A University phonathon took place recently. SC State announced a joint venture with Wilson-Bennett Technology, Inc. in an effort to raise funds through telephone contact. The partnership was a success, as \$195,000 was raised and pledged during the campaign. Alumni also received additional solicitation in the form of an annual fund appeal. A previous appeal was disseminated in the second quarter of 2010.

"We are using all vehicles to motivate everyone to give," says Holloman. "If you are enthralled with technology, then the most convenient way for you to give may be by utilizing our mobile giving efforts. If you feel more comfortable with mailing your contribution to our offices, then the annual fund appeal will be the best alternative. We want to ensure that we satisfy all facets of our community," notes Holloman. "We must do all that we can to satisfy the needs of our students and to continue our legacy of excellence. With your continued assistance, we can reach our \$3 million goal." For additional information, call the Division of Institutional Advancement at (803) 516-4616.



## SC State Alumnus Reaches New Heights:

Dr. M. Christopher Brown II Appointed President of Alcorn State University

by Tameka Kenan

After a mere 10-minute conversation with SC State alumnus Dr. M. Christopher Brown II, it's apparent why this 38-year old was chosen to lead Alcorn State University in his appointment as president. After one conversation, it's as if you've met a long-lost friend, one who does not incessantly speak of his many accomplishments or who would make those who have not achieved as much seem less significant. Instead, you leave the conversation inspired, humbled, and having learned more from a man whose feats stand on their own merits. Terrence Cummings, executive director for Student Success and Retention at SC State University and a mentor to Brown, describes it best. "Dr. Brown has always been enamored with people," says Cummings. "He has this certain 'royal mystique' about him, yet he is fascinated and embraces so many people, especially those who are not enlightened or as enriched as he is," says a proud Cummings. "Chris never met a stranger; he engaged every single person he met, and each left him ever to remember Christopher Brown."

Brown, who received his bachelor's degree in elementary education from SC State, the master's degree in educational policy and evaluation from the University of Kentucky, and a doctorate in higher education from The Pennsylvania State University, has gained his enlightenment over the years and through his many experiences. These experiences include his last appointment as the executive vice president and provost at Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., his service as dean of the College of Education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, vice president for Programs and Administration at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, director of social justice and professional development for the American Educational Research Association, and executive director and chief research scientist of the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute of the United Negro College Fund. Brown has also presented research on six continents and is the author/editor of 15 books and monographs.

How does an individual at such a young age achieve so much? Brown attributes most to the experiences that he gained while attending SC State University. "It was SC State that really gave me an understanding of what was possible in life," says Brown. "I

will tell anybody that my best training in higher education and leadership management, I received from SC State, and I am still using today what I learned there."

Brown recalls the nostalgia of his college days, conjuring memories of his time lobbying University status with Dr. Carl Carpenter, his moments sitting on the SC State Board of Trustees as Student Government Association president under Dr. Albert Smith, and certainly his time with President Emeritus M. Maceo Nance, Jr. "I got the M in my name from President Nance," admits Brown. Brown also never forgets SC State administrators like Cummings. In fact, Brown gives a special thanks to former director of the Honors Program, Dr. Roy L. Simms, and Cummings in one of his first books, *"The Quest to Define College Desegregation: Black Colleges, Title IV Compliance and Post-Adams Integration."*

Although Brown acquired a tremendous amount of knowledge from these individuals, this Charleston, S.C. native and product of a single-parent home, says that his life is no different from the next individual's, and that his latest success is due to Godly intervention. "It's really destiny and divinity," exclaims Brown. "There are lots of people just as qualified as I am with the same or similar experiences that I have. It's an act of providence that you get to it."

Brown is new to his latest challenge as president of Alcorn State University, but he understands what it takes to be successful at the helm. Aside from hard work and an immense knowledge, Brown references the humble nature that anyone may discover he has already acquired. "One thing I've learned about successful presidents is that every day they arrive on campus, they arrive with a sense of humility and thanksgiving for the opportunity to be able to give and to serve," says Brown. "Those presidents that are unsuccessful often don't arrive with that same posture."

Obviously, that posture and his diligent work ethic were noticed early on from faculty, staff and friends while Brown was a student at SC State University. As the news breaks of his appointment, many sit in the Miller F. Whittaker Library on the SC State campus sharing their memories of Brown, ecstatic that an SC State alumnus has reached such a signifi-



Dr. M. Christopher Brown II '93

cant milestone. "It comes as no surprise to me that at 38 years old, Dr. M. Christopher Brown II would be elected president of a university," says Cummings. "I just thought it would have been by 35 years old and perhaps South Carolina State University."

Cummings' assumptions weren't too far fetched. "We all have dreams of serving our Alma Mater and that was at one time my career goal," says Brown. "But I have seen that SC State has grown through several capable leadership hands, so I don't think about that much any more, but I aspire to University leadership as a result of my experiences at SC State."

For SC State students who may look to Brown as a role model to follow, Brown encourages these students to get involved and to make a difference. "What we've learned from the research is that students who are active and engaged in the undergraduate experience, including student activities like Student Government Association, the student newspaper, the yearbook and fraternities, gain more informal learning and skill development," stresses Brown. "These activities prepare you in a real way to do real leadership."

Brown's real leadership skills will be put to the test in Lorman, Miss. at Alcorn State University, but SC State has faith that their outstanding alumnus, tenth in the number of SC State alumni who have matriculated to president status at colleges and universities throughout the country, will leave an indelible mark wherever he may go. "Alcorn State University, 'the jewel of the Southwest' as Dr. Brown calls his new home, will never be the same," says Cummings.

## Newly Awarded Grants Provide Exceptional Opportunities for Students

by Ashley Elliott

A nationally recognized, award-winning degree program at SC State University has recently received \$1.25 million in federal funding to assist graduate students who are interested in working with clients with mental illness, substance abuse and addiction issues.

Dr. Bridget Hollis-Staten, '96, associate professor of Rehabilitation Counseling, serves as principal investigator of the newly awarded "Rehabilitation Counseling Long Term Training Grant in Addictions Rehabilitation and Substance Abuse." This grant will award \$750,000 over the next five years to the Rehabilitation Counseling program. Additionally, Dr. Michelle Maultsby, associate professor of Rehabilitation Counseling, serves as principal investigator of the "Long Term Training Project Rehabilitation of Individuals who are Mentally Ill." This grant will award \$500,000 for the next five years to the program. The awarding of two new grants will allow students enrolled in the Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling degree program to receive free tuition, a \$500 monthly stipend and professional development opportunities during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Dr. David Staten, '92, '94, associate professor of rehabilitation counseling, says these newly awarded grants and others provide huge benefits to students and the Rehabilitation Counseling program alike. "We are pleased to be able to attract and recruit the best and brightest students through these grants and others within our program," says Staten. "We primarily like to provide opportunities locally and therefore recruit students from SC State University and Claflin University, but we receive students from across the state and other locations as well," he notes.

In 2001, when Staten returned to his Alma Mater, he found the Rehabilitation Counseling program without any active grants to provide student support. Having benefited from grants while enrolled in the program himself, Staten quickly embraced the opportunity to assist students in similar ways. He and his wife, Dr. Hollis-Staten, who also obtained her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling degree from SC State, became actively involved in obtaining grants for the program. In 2003, Hollis-Staten was awarded her first \$750,000 grant for student scholarships, stipends and professional development opportunities. In 2005, the Staten team served as co-project directors on their second awarded long-term training grant, in which they received \$750,000 to provide the same opportunities. Two years later, they submitted five grants, in which four were awarded. Collectively, the husband and wife team have been instrumental in obtaining close to \$5.25 million in federally funded grants for the Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling program.

"The feedback we have received regarding the grants has been overwhelmingly positive," says Staten. "Not only have students received scholarships, but after they graduate, they have been able to obtain jobs as counselors, working with state and federal agencies and working with veterans with disabilities. Many of our students have gone on to pursue PhDs as well, to include enrolling in doctoral programs at the University of Iowa, Southern Illinois, Pennsylvania State, Florida State and many other universities."

Staten's doctoral opportunity came while he was enrolled in SC State's Rehabilitation Counseling program and was awarded the Patricia Harris Roberts Fellowship, a national fellowship which enabled him to receive full tuition, an \$833 monthly stipend to assist with college expenses and other valuable, life-changing opportunities.

"That particular fellowship allowed me to receive professional development opportunities, attend conferences and meet professors. Those resources ultimately assisted me in getting accepted into the Rehabilitation Counseling PhD program at the University of Iowa," he says.

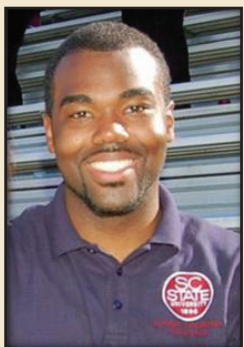
This is the same motivation exhibited through the Rehabilitation Counseling faculty when writing their grants, to ensure they include professional development opportunities for their students to travel so that they are exposed to leaders in the fields. "When it's time to pursue PhD programs, a lot of our students are already established with faculty at various universities across the country," mentions Staten.

In 2008, the Rehabilitation Counseling program was awarded federal funding from the U.S. Department of Postsecondary Education to implement the Disability Enhancement Project (DEP), which is designed to increase the awareness and support for faculty, staff and administrators as they meet the academic needs of students with disabilities. Dr. Maultsby and Dr. Dwight Varnum, who serve as co-directors of DEP, were instrumental in obtaining \$957,635 for the three-year grant (2008-2011).

## SC State University's #1 Social Mobility Ranking

### Proven True Through Senior's Success

by Ashley Elliott



Russell Simon, '11

For more than four consecutive years, SC State University has attained the number one ranking in social mobility with *Washington Monthly* magazine, an independent monthly magazine covering politics, government, culture and media in America. This number one ranking clearly defines the University's mission to provide students with a quality education, granting access to those who would otherwise not have been able to afford to attend college.

For one soon to be SC State graduate, the number one social mobility ranking has proven accurate, as he says he would not be anticipating receiving his degree in May 2011 had it not been for the financial aid awards granted to him from the University.

"I pride myself on the fact that there was enough need-based financial aid assistance, as well as academic assistance available for me to come to SC State without having to worry about paying loans afterwards," shares senior accounting major, Russell Simon.

A native of Santee, S.C., Simon grew up in a single-parent home and realized the struggles his mother endured to raise him and his older sister. Despite the odds, Simon was determined to create a better life for him and his family, and he says there was one key to creating this reality.

"I understood the value of an education at an earlier age," he says. "My mother was not afforded the opportunity to attend college because of the financial struggles during her time. She always reminded me that it was possible for me to go to college. She showed me tough love and told me I had to do better; she would often say, 'you have to achieve all that you can achieve.'"

He took those words to heart. At the age of 14, Simon began working part-time at a local fast food restaurant, making \$5.15 an hour. "Since then, I always worked," he says. Working wasn't his only pursuit. He also focused on giving back to his community, participating in several activities and cause related events. This would prove beneficial to Simon as he would find himself getting back much of the stewardship that he had given. "While in high school, I made sure I visited my guidance counselor's office every day during lunch. I used that time to apply for every scholarship that came her way."

This aggressiveness paid off tremendously, actually in full. When Simon enrolled at SC State in August 2008, he was awarded 10 independent scholarships, in addition to a Pell Grant, which serves as a post-secondary educational Federal grant sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education that does not have to be repaid. Each subsequent year, Simon was awarded several scholarships and grants to include the Dick Horne Foundation Scholarship, James E. Clyburn Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship, Chamber of Commerce and Tri-County Chamber of Commerce Scholarships, the LIFE Scholarship, the USDA 1890 Scholarship and the Academic Competitive-

see SUCCESS on page 3

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## SC State Women's Volleyball Captures MEAC Title

by Romanda Noble

2010 was a banner year for the SC State women's volleyball team and fourth year head coach Millicent Sylvan. For just the second time in school history and the first time in 20 years, the SC State women's volleyball team captured the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) women's volleyball title. The Lady Bulldogs defeated Delaware State, 3-1 (20-25, 25-21, 25-17, 26-24), in the championship game to capture the title and secure the team's first-ever berth in the NCAA Division I Volleyball Tournament.

"I'm so happy for this team," said Sylvan, who was named the Most Outstanding Coach. "It just feels good to see the ladies achieve a goal that they have worked so hard for."

Senior Jarne Gleaton, the 2010 MEAC Player of the Year and the tournament Most Outstanding Player, led the way with a double-double 18 kills and 10 digs. It was a total team effort as three players recorded double-digit kills and four different players recorded double-digit digs. Shabree Roberson, who was also named to the All-Tournament Team, put down 18 kills while Desire Waller added 10 kills in the match. Melissa Robinson led the team defensively with a game-high 26 digs. In addition to Gleaton and Robinson, Paige Webb contributed 16 digs and Bria Brimmer picked up 11 digs in the contest. Brimmer also put up a game-high 49 set assists in the victory. Roberson, who made her presence felt in the middle, had a game-high eight total blocks (3 solo-5 assists).

"Watching this team capture the title bought back so many memories and I'm so elated for this team," said athletics di-

rector Charlene M. Johnson, who captured the team's only other title in 1990 when she was the head coach. "Through all the ups and downs Coach Sylvan, her coaching staff and team faced this season, they never gave up. I would like to personally thank the coaches for all their hard work and the administration for its continued support. This championship shows that all of it has paid off."

After a two week lay-off from competition, SC State traveled to Gainesville, Fla. to take on the No. 1 team in the nation, the Florida Gators, in the first round of the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championships. SC State fell to Florida, 3-0 (25-7, 25-10, 25-12) in the match, which was contested at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center on the campus of the University of Florida.

Freshman Desire Waller led the way for the Lady Bulldogs with eight kills (.294). Senior Jarne Gleaton, who closed out her career as the all-time kills leader in SC State history (1,264), had six kills and one block-assist in the contest.

SC State finished the 2010 campaign with a 17-23 overall record, a 6-2 worksheet in the MEAC, and was 9-of-12 heading into the playoffs. The 17 wins by the Lady Bulldogs is a four match increase from last season when the team finished 13-20. SC State also garnished many accolades during the year including three post-season honors.

In addition to Gleaton earning Player of the Year and first team accolades, Roberson and Bria Brimmer were also named to the first team.



2010 SC State MEAC Champion Women's Volleyball Team

**Kneeling 1st Row (L-R):** Blake Banner, Peri Ligons, Lauren Harris, Bria Brimmer, Melissa Robinson, Caleen Hawkins **Bending 2nd Row (L-R):** E. Paige Webb, Alyse Lewis, Taylor Bailey, Brendell Studnika, Desire Waller **Standing 3rd Row (L-R):** Mark Hilla (Athletic Trainer), Donika Sutton (Asst. Coach), Shaina Ituah, Tiffane' Lewis, Jarne Gleaton (Tournament Most Outstanding Performer & All-Tournament), Shabree Roberson (All-Tournament), Millicent Sylvan (Head Coach-Tournament Outstanding Coach), Kathlyn Gooden (Volunteer Asst. Coach)

SUCCESS *continued from page 2*

ness Grant, which is awarded to students with a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) who are enrolled in a rigorous post-secondary degree program. Additionally, he was awarded the Pell Grant through his senior year. *Washington Monthly's* social mobility ranking also reviews the percentage of Pell Grant recipients, SAT scores and anticipated graduation rates for students enrolled at the University.

Receiving a free college education was extremely valuable to Simon. He says at the time he was choosing which college to attend, his mother said something that would form his ultimate decision. "My mom said, 'Russell, I'm not going to tell you where to go, just know that I cannot afford to send you to college, so I suggest you take the financial decision into account.' I could have gone to other institutions, but not without acquiring some loans; therefore, SC State turned out to be the best decision," he says.

While at SC State, Simon's successful habits from high school continued in his college experience. He studied vigorously, ensuring his grades were kept up, and he also began participating in several professional organizations to include the Kappa Upsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity, where he served as 2009-2010 chapter president. In April 2010, he was inducted into the Lambda Theta Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi Honor Fraternity, which serves as the national honorary organization for financial information students and professionals at the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International accredited schools. Currently, he serves as the 2010-2011 Student Government Association (SGA) business manager, where he is responsible for event and travel logistics, as well as overseeing the student budget.

Of his professional and community involvement, Simon says, "I wouldn't change it at all. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience because that's what got me here. It wasn't just the grades that got me those scholarships, it was because of the community service and the leadership roles I was involved in during high school."

When Simon receives his degree in May 2011, he says he will be most grateful of the time and opportunity he was afforded at SC State. "I couldn't have pictured myself going anywhere else."

In June 2011, Simon will become a full-time employee with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at one of their four locations throughout the United States. Each summer, during his three years at SC State, Simon interned with the USDA, learning about various accounting practices. In Spring 2012, he plans to enroll in graduate school to pursue his MBA degree, in addition to obtaining his certification to become a public accountant.

Serving as a model student who defeated obstacles and overcame challenges, Simon is the epitome of educational success. He created opportunities and believed he would achieve, while ensuring his social status would not limit him. He encourages others to do the same.

"SC State University is a phenomenal institution that has really made me who I am, and I would definitely tell others to use the opportunities here to help enhance and develop the person that they are. Don't let your background deter you," stressed Simon. "Stay positive, look for the best, and stay focused on the future."

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**115th**  
**FOUNDERS' DAY**



www.scsu.edu

Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker:

**Dr. M. Christopher Brown II, '93**

Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center

For more information, call  
**(803) 536-7057**



## Four SC State Players Earn 2010 SBN A-A Honors

by Bill Hamilton

Four South Carolina State players have been named to the 2010 Sheridan Broadcasting Network (SBN) Sports Black College All-American (BCAA) Team, announced Thursday (01-20-11). The team is comprised of student-athletes from the nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

SC State, the defending SBN National Champion, led the way with its four selections, including three named for a second straight year. Bulldogs named to the prestigious squad are offensive linemen Johnny Culbreath (6-6, 310 Sr., Monroe, Ga.) and Josh Harrison (6-4, 290 Sr., Lake City, SC), linebacker David Erby (6-0, 220 Sr., Rock Hill, SC) and placekicker Blake Erickson (5-10, 165 Jr., Cantonment, Fla.). Culbreath, Erby and Erickson were also members of the 2009 SBN squad.

Grambling, the 2009 runner-up to the Bulldogs, followed Coach Buddy Pough's team with three selections, including RB Frank Warren, the Offensive Player of the Year. Texas Southern LB DeJuan Fulghum was named Defensive Player of the Year, while Brian Jenkins, who guided Bethune-Cookman to a 10-2 mark and a tie for the MEAC title, earned Coach of the Year accolades.

The Bulldogs' Erby led his team in total tackles in 2010 with 96 -- 58 of them unassisted -- and also had 14 tackles for loss and seven sacks. He was first-team All-MEAC selection and the

MEAC Defensive Player of the Year, reaped All-America honors by Phil Steele College Football (3rd team), College Sporting News, Boxtorow.com/BASN and Heritage Sports (1st team). In addition, he was an All-State selection by the Orangeburg Touchdown Club.

Culbreath, a key blocker for SC State during his four-year career, earlier was named All-America by Walter Camp, the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA), Box-to-row.com/BASN, Heritage Sports and The Sports Network (3rd team). He also made the All-MEAC first team and was an All-State selection by the Orangeburg Touchdown Club.

Harrison, who played alongside Culbreath on the Bulldog offensive line, earlier was named All-America by Box-to-row.com/BASN. He was also a first-team All-MEAC selection and the league's Offensive Lineman of the Year, and a member of the Orangeburg Touchdown Club's All-State squad.

Erickson led the MEAC in scoring with 93 points, connecting on an 18 of 21 field goal attempts and 39 of 43 extra point tries. For the second consecutive year, he set a single-season school record for field goals. He also became SC State's career leader in total field goals with 35 for his career. His career-long 48-yarder against Hampton the past season lifted the Bulldogs to a 10-7 triumph over the Pirates. Erickson earlier was named All-State by the Orangeburg Touchdown Club.

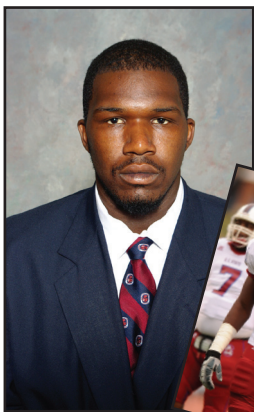
**SC STATE'S**  
**2010 SBN**  
**ALL-AMERICANS**



David Erby



Blake Erickson



Johnny Culbreath



Josh Harrison